

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3659

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

MEDICINAL HERBAL PLANTS

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) India's export of medicinal plants and herbs during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the measures taken/proposed by the Government sector for wider acceptability and growth of exports of medicinal/herbal plants in the global market;
- (c) the funds released to the Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations for undertaking activities related to propagation, preservation, protection and conservation of medicinal plants in the country during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has periodically reviewed the works carried out by the Governmental and Non- Governmental organisations in this regard and if so, the details along with the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the present status of the action plan to manufacture various medicinal preparation from the herbs naturally found in the forests in various areas including Valmikinagar in Bihar?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a): As per information furnished by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India's export of medicinal plants and herbs (under ITCHS:1211 and 1302) for the last three years and current year (Apr-Sep) is as follows:

Year Value in Rupees

2009-10 21855736524

2010-11 41419228054

2011-12 181956019767

2012-13 226205515046

(April-Sept., 2012). These figures are provisional and hence subject to change.

(b): Following important measures have been taken for development of medicinal / herbal plants sector for wider acceptability and inter-alia growth of exports:-

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare since 2008-09 to provide support for establishment of nurseries, cultivation of identified species including those which are in demand for export, setting up of infrastructure for post harvest management / processing and value addition / testing facilities / organic, GAP certification, market promotion etc.

Implementation of projects for Research & Development in priority areas.

Development of guidelines for Good Agricultural Practices and Good Field Collection Practices for Indian medicinal plants.

Formulation of Certification Standards and launch of Voluntary Certification Scheme for cultivated / collected medicinal plants with support of Quality Council of India.

Development of Agro-techniques of selected important medicinal plants by the NMPB.

(c): Information regarding schemes implemented by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in this regard and the funds released to Government and Non Government Organizations during the last three years and the current year, State / UT-wise is as follows:

Central Sector Scheme for "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants":

Central Sector Scheme for "Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants" was approved by Government during year 2008-09. The Scheme envisages providing of support for Survey, Inventorization, in-situ conservation, ex-situ conservation / herbal gardens, support to and linkage with JFMCs, Research & Development, Establishing Quality Standards & Certifications, Capacity Building, Promotional activities (School / Home Herbal Gardens) and Management support. Information regarding the funds released is provided in Annexure-I.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants":

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National Mission on Medicinal Plants" was approved since the year 2008-09. The scheme is primarily aimed at supporting market driven, cultivation of medicinal plants on private land with backwards linkages for establishment of nurseries, for supply of quality planting material etc. and forward linkages for post-harvest management, marketing infrastructure, certification etc. in a mission mode. Information regarding the funds released is provided in Annexure-II.

(d): Works carried out by the organizations implementing under the scheme is reviewed periodically during the meetings of Project Screening Committee (PSC), Technical Screening Committee (TSC) and Standing Finance Committee (SFC). NMPB has also engaged an organization viz. Agricultural Finance Cooperation (AFC) for independent monitoring and evaluation of projects sanctioned under the Schemes implemented by it. Such a review of projects resulted in implementation / continuation / disqualification / cancellation of the projects.

(e): No specific scheme is being implemented by the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in this regard. However, the Department of AYUSH implements a Central Sector Scheme for AYUSH Drug Industry Clusters through which eligible proposals recommended by the State Government are supported for setting up common infrastructural facilities. Under this scheme, no proposal has been received from the State of Bihar. The National Medicinal Plants Board, Department of AYUSH is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Mission on Medicinal Plants", which includes support for establishment of nurseries, cultivation, post-harvest management, processing & value addition and management support. No project on post-harvest management, processing and value addition of medicinal plants in various areas including Valmikinagar in Bihar has been received by NMPB.